Special Financial Aid to Uttaranchal

†*558 : SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial aid provided to Uttaranchal and Himachai Pradesh during the last year and the works on which said amount was spent by both States, separately; and

(b) whether Government are considering to provide special financial aid to newly created State, Uttaranchal and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) In 2002-03, Central Assistance of Rs. 1604.81 crores was provided to Uttaranchal. For the same period, Rs. 1295.27 crores was provided to Himachai Pradesh. Besides, share in Central Taxes amounting to Rs. 374.11 crores was released to Uttaranchal and Rs. 347.63 crores to Himachai Pradesh.

States are expected to spend funds for the allocated purpose. State Governments are responsible to the State Legislature for proper utilization of funds through the State Audit Report prepared by the C&AG of India under Article 151(2) of the Constitution of India. However, if there is any shortfall in Plan expenditure as against Approved/Revised Plan outlay, a proportionate cut is made from the Central assistance released to the State.

(b) The Annual Plan of Uttaranchal for 2003-04 is yet to be finalized. The issue of providing any special financial aid to Uttaranchal may only arise thereafter.

Science City in Punjab

*559. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(b) what is the present status of Science City in Punjab;

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed; and

(d) the funds released so far and spent on the project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The civil construction work for Phase-I buildings (Science Voyage Hall, Space Theatre, Entrance Gate complex, Parking Area, Roads, Central and Entrance Plazas) is in progress. Construction work worth Rs. 25 crores has been completed against the contracted value of Rs. 31 crores.

A large Film Projection System and Flight Simulator have been procured at a total cost of Rs. 9.5 crores.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.